

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY  
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/EP2005/012029

International filing date (day/month/year)  
08.11.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)  
09.11.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
C08G8/28, B41C1/10, G03F7/00

Applicant  
IPAGSA INDUSTRIAL, S.L.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office  
D-80298 Munich  
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d  
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Vogel, T

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8569



---

**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

---

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
  - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material:
    - ☐ a sequence listing
    - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material:
    - ☐ in written format
    - ☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing:
    - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
    - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/EP2005/012029

---

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

---

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

1. The closest prior art is disclosed in WO-A-0056791 (D1) cited in the application.

D1 discloses a near infrared absorption polymer comprising an infrared chromophoric group (e.g. a cyanine group) covalently bonded to the backbone of an alkali-soluble resin.

The claimed near infrared absorption polymer differs from this prior art in that the near infrared absorption polymer comprises at least two different infrared chromophoric group covalently bonded to the backbone of an alkali-soluble resin at least one of which is an indole cyanine dye and the other one is a benz[e]indole cyanine dye.

2. The object of the present invention is to solve the problem entailed by the prior art (discussed on pages 1-5) and to provide a near infrared absorption polymer allowing the formation of printing plates having a shorter post manufacturing conditioning time without having a reduced latitude in their performance.

These objects are achieved in accordance with the invention claimed in the independent claim 1 by providing near infrared absorption polymer comprises at least two different infrared chromophoric group covalently bonded to the backbone of an alkali-soluble resin at least one of which is an indole cyanine dye and the other one is a benz[e]indole cyanine dye, which is not suggested in either of the citations and is not rendered obvious by any combination of their teachings.

The claimed near infrared absorption polymer according to claim 1, the heat sensitive printing plate precursor according to claim 8, the process of manufacture of the printing plate precursor according to claim 10 and the method of producing a printing form according to claim 11 are therefore novel and involve an inventive step.